(b) if so, the action taken to release assistance early to help the traditional 8 lakh artisans in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh through its nominated Channelising Agency Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Co-op Finance Corporation submitted proposals for Artisan assistance in October, 1998, for a total outlay of Rs. 230.02 crore out of which Rs. 101.54 crore was indicated as share of National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation in the means of finance.

As the project did not conform to NBCFDC guidelines, the SCA was advised to send complete project details in order to ascertain financial viability and technical feasibility of the project.

The SCA finally revised the proposal on 06-03-99 for Rs. 18.15 crore under "ADARNA" scheme. The Corporation appraised the scheme on priority and disbursed Rs. 1738 crore for 30 projects to benefit 104312 Artisan beneficiaries in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Assistance to Residential Schools of SCs and STs in Andhra Pradesh

1179. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for assistance to residential schools and educational institutions relating to SCs and STs in Andhra Pradesh have been received;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to bear the 50% share of primary education for SCs and STs and construction and maintenance of the schools for SCs and STs; and

(c) the measures taken to increase the rate of post-matric scholarships and sharing the 50% expenditure by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government bears 100% expenditure for running of residential schools under the Central Sector Scheme for Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels for class I and under Scheme of Educational Cemplex in low literacy pockets for development of ST girls in Tribal Areas for classes I to 5. NGOs are also provided 90% grant-in-aid for running residential schools for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for classes 1 to 10. For construction of Ashram Schools for classes 1 to 12 in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas 50% Central assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territories. For construction of hostels for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 50% Central assistance is released to the State Government under the following schemes:—

1. Scheduled Caste Boys' Hostels
2. Scheduled Caste Girls' Hostels
3. Scheduled Tribe Boys' Hostels
4. Scheduled Tribe Girls' Hostels

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students the rates of Scholarship were revised with effect from 01.10.1995. Government of India provides 100% Central Assistance to concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations over and above their committed liability. However, the requirement of committed liability has been dispensed with in case of North-Eastern States.

Working Women Hostels in Assam

1180. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of working women's hostels, including hostels for SC/ST girls in Assam, with assistance of Central Government during the last three years;